



THE OCEAN-VIEW COTTAGE CO.

Summer is coming.
You want to go to the seaside.
Perhaps you are going to take your family.
Ocean View, Va., is the favorite resort for Richmond people.
Thousands of our citizens go there every summer.

You can have all the advantages of THIS season.

Build a house, spend part of the time there, rent it out. Your rent will soon pay for house and lot.

The value of your property will rapidly increase.

Traction service runs directly through the property.

It is only five minutes' walk from Ocean View Hotel. We do not restrict you to any kind of house.

Over 100 cottages already built, ranging from small houses up to \$10,000 cottages. Numbers of lots have been resold at over 100 per cent. profit in the last two years.

The demand for cottages is always in excess of supply.



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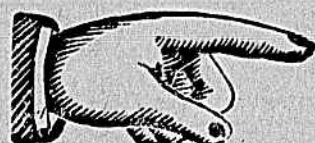
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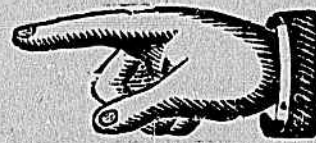
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OCEAN VIEW LOTS



PRICES: LOTS 50 FEET BY 150 FEET, \$125 to \$250. TERMS: \$10.00 CASH AND \$5.00 PER MONTH. NO INTEREST AND NO TAXES UNTIL PAID FOR.

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THE OCEAN-VIEW COTTAGE COMPANY,

Office, 1114 East Main Street,

RICHMOND, VA.

COUPON.

Fill up with name and address, cut out and mail to Ocean View Cottage Co., 1114 East Main Street, Richmond, Va.

NAME

ADDRESS

MR. MEREDITH ON NEW ORGANIC LAW

Great Lawyer and Convention Leader on "A Modern Constitution."

MANY IMPORTANT CHANGES

Able and Complete Review of the Labors of a Distinguished Body.

One of the principal speakers at the Constitutional Convention banquet here on Thursday night was Hon. Charles V. Meredith, of this city, one of the ablest leaders of the body, and who had much to do with the framing of the new instrument.

Mr. Meredith's speech was an able and interesting review of the results of the convention's work, his subject having been "A Modern Constitution."

His address in full follows:

"In all assemblies of men, meeting because of their former joint endeavors and deeds, there is apt to be a tone of self-congratulation, sometimes rising to a higher pitch.

"I shall claim for this association the manifest right to exhibit a full, but just, appreciation of their labors."

"If from any of us there shall drop a word of too extravagant praise, let it be ascribed, not to personal pride, but to the glow of feeling which this meeting naturally arouses.

"There is not one of us whose thoughts and feelings tonight are not widely different from those which we had when last we met. While we then had the satisfaction that came from the fact that our task was done, yet we could not shake off the feeling of anxiety as to what would be the result of those labors. Your work had just been launched; the object of criticism, with many, the source of doubt and dread with others, and even with those of us who were most optimistic, there was no assurance but an earnest faith.

"To-night that work has had two years of trial, and the tests have shown that you wrought, not to the injury, but for the benefit of the great mass of the people; and your faith has become knowledge and your purpose has materialized into a fact.

"No observing man will deny that there now exists among the people the belief that in the organic law of this State there has been embedded greater safeguards against the commissions of wrongs which had previously been so frequent and so clamorous, and that there has been fixed in that instrument wiser and safer sources of procedure as to every department of the State. If we rightly brought forth that confidence, our labors were well spent; and there our responsibility ceased. The preservation of that belief now rests with the legislative and

judicial departments of the State, especially with the latter.

"The Constitution of the United States could have been made an instrument for the destruction of the Union. Instead of for its preservation, had not its early construction fallen upon those whose love of country purified and whose wisdom and justice enabled their decisions. To those honest and high-minded men, who form the supreme judiciary of this State have been committed those needs and wishes of the people, expressed in convention assembled, and from them must come the final result.

"As our labors are over, we may tonight indulge in the pleasures of retrospect.

"When last we were here had not had time to look at the work as a whole. For months it had been our duty to scrutinize each detail of the subject, as it was presented for consideration. Considering closely each day the subject then before us, our minds were focussed upon that particular subject, and we gave no heed to the number of changes which had already been made. As it thus grew more and more a part of our lives, we saw how many and how great were the innovations we had introduced.

Conservative Radicals.

"Looking at it now, as a whole, and comparing it with the former Constitution, we find that it is a whole new work, we were, to say the least, conservative radicals. Looking at the results, we should rejoice in the fact that justifies that admission.

"The demands for a Constitutional Convention arose from the overshadowing question of suffrage. There was really no other definite, positive call for it. It is true that the people were restive under the course of legislation in this State. But it was an undefined dissatisfaction—

"Like an infant crying in the night, And with no language but a cry."

"While we were really called for one main purpose, we found that it would be impossible for us to confine our labors to that one subject. Early in our deliberations we were face to face with the question whether we should follow what have been called the old broad lines of the early Constitutions, or should we recognize the existence of dangers of a later growth and form a Constitution more adapted to modern needs, and hence more specific in the grant of power, more restrictive in its limitations, and more preventive of the growth of dangerous power in persons and artificial creations.

"You saw fit to adopt the latter course. Of course, your critics on the outside, who neither shared your labors nor your responsibilities, declared that you were ignoring all precedents, and descending to legislative minutiae. Former Constitutions, the Magna Charta, and other hoary documents, were cited to you as worthy precedents to follow. Of course, those critics, like most men who cite documents, which they have never read, were wrong both in their advice as statesmen and their knowledge as students of history. For one fact stands indisputable, that the most distinctive characteristic of the new Constitution is the recognition of the existence of dangers of a later growth and form a Constitution more adapted to modern needs, and hence more specific in the grant of power, more restrictive in its limitations, and more preventive of the growth of dangerous power in persons and artificial creations.

"The provisions of the Magna Charta are by no means confined to the recognition of the broad principles and precepts of constitutional liberty.

"That great grant of the seeds of English constitutional government descends to prohibit the pervasance of cat-

tle. It prohibits the sureties from being distrained so long as the principal debtor is sufficient for the payment of the debt.

"It provides that a widow's dower shall be a third interest in the realty, and allotted in forty days.

"It declared that there should be one system of weights and measures, and it declared that no widow should be distrained to marry so long as she wills to live without a husband.

"Such were some of the minutiae which filled the minds of the Barons at Runnymede. They were not all John Lockes. They used more than midnight oil.

No Museum of Mental Relics.

"Or examine your first Constitution of this State, and you will find that, before the great men who framed that instrument, commenced to formulate great divisions of government, they set forth the long record of individual rights, and thus framed that immortal document, the Bill of Rights.

"Thus, by precedent at least, you were well justified in the selection of your course, that nothing should be retained merely because of its antiquity, and nothing rejected merely because it was of later birth. A Constitution should not be a museum of mental relics, but an aggregation of principles for active living forces, or of practical remedies for existing wrongs of sufficient magnitude to render their existence threatening to the rights and the safety of the great body of the people.

"You knew that there existed in governments evils, and to governments dangers, which no other Constitutional Convention in this State had ever been called upon to consider, and against which to give the people proper protection. Around every legislative body there had grown up a body of men, who strove to debauch it and made the power of legislation dangerous. So strong had been that body that they had received the designation of the 'third estate.'

"It did not need the exposures in Missouri, Minnesota and other States to prove the infamy of their existence nor their overshadowing danger to the State. You knew that that evil was a canker, which must be cut out as fully as possible from the body politic, or it meant the death of government from internal rotteness.

"To remedy this you saw it was necessary to introduce restrictions upon the legislative power. You also saw that there existed in this State the power of organized wealth, greater than the power of the State, for it did not hesitate to invade as far as it could every department of the State. As it had its representatives in the legislative halls, so it strove as far as possible to have its sympathizers among the judiciary. The danger did not come simply from its servants, but greatly from the support of honest and pure men, who were led by the false cry, 'Do not hamper business—encourage enterprise.' As if business must be born in bribing and engendered by evil. You recognize that so widespread was its support, that you could not count upon any permanent relief from the Legislature.

"Seeing this great evil, there was but one thing to do, and that was to ignore those who denied it and fix in the Constitution some practical remedy. You also knew that even in the field of taxation, the hand of this power was also felt by the State. Knowing this, you saw that there was but one remedy, and that was not to depend upon the Legislature, but to embody in the Constitution a guiding principle. Of course, along with these great evils there were many minor wrongs, which had existed so long with-

out legislative remedies, that you knew that your duty was to root them out by Constitutional provisions, knowing these dangers, I congratulate you that you did not shrink from laying an alternative or formative hand, as the new might be, upon any subject of the former Constitution, or upon the powers and duties of any of the departments of government. Yet those who know your long labors in the several committees, as well as in the Committee of the Whole, will know that you took no step recklessly. Each change or innovation was made after earnest thought and careful and laborious examination into all the avenues of experience, from which assurance or warning could be derived.

"In fact, to some one or more of our sister States we owe most of the changes, which we made; with the exception of some of the provisions in the articles on the judiciary, public schools and on finance and taxation.

Outline Presented.

"Neither the broad scope of your changes and innovations, nor the full measure of your labor can be appreciated by an examination of a section, or even of any articles of the Constitution, but can only be gotten from considering it in its entirety. Looking back to-night, let me present in mere outline, the fullness of your labors.

"Of the three great departments of State you made the least change in that of the executive.

"Yet as to that department you required a longer term of residence in this State for one to be eligible to the office of Governor. You broadened the veto power. You gave to the Chief Executive power to recommend changes in a proposed statute without requiring a veto. You required the Secretary of the Commonwealth to be elected by the people. You required the Commissioner of Agriculture to be elected by the people. You created a State board for the control and supervision of the public institutions and prisons, and provided for the appointment of a commissioner of State hospitals.

"Control of Corporations.

"By article 12 of the Constitution you introduced a new feature of power into the government of this State, for you therein declared the necessity for a control over corporations, which could not be entrusted to legislative action. You required that corporations should be created by general laws. You created that body known as the Corporation Commission. That department has been so much under the public eye, has been the subject of so much public discussion, and has been so universally approved by the people, that no word of praise needs be spoken of it. Personally of such importance do I deem this department that hereafter in casting my vote for Governor, I shall be greatly guided by what I shall believe such candidate will do as to this department, for I believe the appointment of this commission to be one of the most important of the gubernatorial duties.

"In that article you not only saw fit to attempt to put an end to the oppressions upon business and the irresponsible conduct of corporations, but you offered protection to a class of people, whose lives are always amid danger, and so often end in death. You forbade the application of the doctrine of fellow servant to railroad employees. Surely if it was right to embody in the United States Constitution a provision for public use without due compensation, you were justified in forbidding the application of any rule of law, preventing the recovery of compensation for the negligent taking of life or limb.

"You modified the rights under the homestead provision, so as to prevent certain fraudulent acts.

"Your treatment of taxation and finance is, perhaps, the most marked change both in principle and in practice.

"You removed the restriction that all property should be taxed upon its value, and required it should be uniform upon the same class; thereby adopting the rule of the United States Constitution, and that most approved by writers upon the subject of taxation. You required the exemption of property from taxation to a few classes of property; those used strictly for religious, charitable and educational purposes. You authorized the taxation of franchises; a modern species of property.

"You removed the temptation to make false returns for taxation, and encouraged the investment by the people of this State in the stock of our local enterprises, by prohibiting the taxation of shares of stock under certain circumstances. You protected the owners of real estate in cities and towns from many of the onerous burdens frequently imposed as assessments for public improvements.

"You prescribed a new system of taxation of corporations, by which this State has been able to reduce her rate of taxation, and yet at the same time increase her revenues; and to-day she presents, as to her finances, the most prosperous condition that she has shown in nearly fifty years.

"Such is a mere skeleton of your labors, yet it shows how varied were the subjects, how many and important the changes. After two years of trial we feel that we were justified in believing that a modern Constitution requires an abandonment of the generalities of the older forms, and requires greater restriction of powers of the legislative department, and more specific and detailed state-

Fundamental Changes.

"In the government of counties, after abolishing the system of county judges, your chief changes were restrictions upon eligibility of certain officers for reelection.

"In the government of cities and towns, you made important and fundamental changes. You required them to be incorporated under general laws. You limited the eligibility of city treasurers and commissioners of the revenue. You enlarged the powers of the mayors. You required the mayors and councilmen to be

elected at times different from those at which other city officers are elected.

"You protected the cities and towns from the entry upon and use of their streets by certain corporations without the consent of the municipal authorities. You put safeguards around the properties of the cities, and restricted their right to grant municipal franchises except in certain methods, and put a maximum upon the periods of their existence. You required their boundaries to be changed under general laws. You put safeguards around the bonded indebtedness of cities and towns.

"In nothing were your changes and innovations, more fundamental and beneficial, than in the provisions as to education and public instruction. Your State Board of Education must now have upon it some of the leading educators of the State educational institutions. You changed the organization of the State Library, and prevented the appointment of the State librarian being a department of mere political patronage. You empowered each school district to levy an additional school tax to expend upon such schools as the local school authorities might decide the public welfare required.

"You made the Department of Agriculture a constitutional department. You required the Commissioner of Agriculture to be elected by the people. You created a State board for the control and supervision of the public institutions and prisons, and provided for the appointment of a commissioner of State hospitals.

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ments of the powers and duties of all other departments evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism; it is their right, it is their duty, to provide new guards for their future security.

"Along those lines you builded. So far the work has proved beneficial; and for its future I can give no stronger wish, than that its success may be commensurate with the patriotism of your motives and the purity of your purposes."

"The new wharf will be built of the best material obtainable. The piles are of solid locust."

"The plans of Messrs. Purks and Newton for the development of Arnold's Landing include the erection of a cannery establishment and probably a grist mill."

"Mr. Frank Taylor, who contracted a cold while attending the presidential inauguration, has pneumonia and is said to be a very ill man."

"Dr. J. L. Sothern, of Chatterton, near here, visited Washington this week."

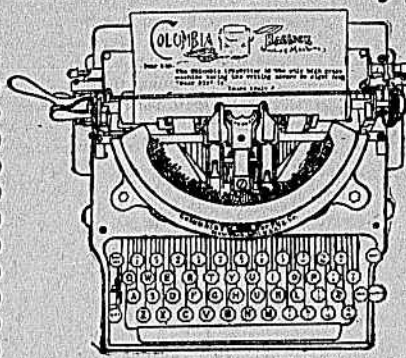
"Miss Minnie O. Smith, who has been spending some time in Fredericksburg, has returned to her home near Port Conway."

"The Potomac steamboats have resumed their river line schedules. In the absence of wharves, which were destroyed by ice, passengers and freight have to be conveyed to and from the steamers by means of large scows and row boats."

"Mr. Bob Jennings, who 'dipped' his big seine at the Belvidere fishing shore on the Potomac, this county, several days ago, has made some large catches of spring fish. So far 'fresh' fish are bringing still edge prices."

"In consequence of the long, hard winter, the cattle as a rule are poor and weak. Rough provender has become very scarce and those who are so fortunate as to have any kind of it for sale, can dictate prices and dispose of it at their own figures."

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